



2010 SPECIAL SESSION: DAY TEN

March 24, 2010

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

I'm sorry to report that the Legislature has done nothing over the past two days. In fact, we didn't even meet yesterday and today. Despite that, I did go to Olympia today (unpaid) to attend to some legislative matters. While some members were in Olympia for similar reasons, most legislators were nowhere to be found. We're now ten days into the 2010 special session and **the majority party still hasn't agreed amongst themselves on how to tax you and by how much.**



YOU'RE INVITED:

**Bill restricting sex predator computer access to be
signed into law by the governor tomorrow**

The governor will be signing my bill, [SB 6308](#), into law tomorrow at 3 p.m. in Olympia. If you're interested in attending the bill signing, please come to the governor's office at that time to participate.

SB 6308 requires the Department of Social and Health Services, which operates the SCC, to deny a resident use of a personal computer if his or her treatment plan states that computer access is harmful to that individual's treatment. In such a case, a sexually violent predator may still access a word processing device with limited functionality and no graphical capabilities.

The original version of my bill would have prevented even more children from being exploited by only allowing SCC residents access to a computer if DSHS officials deemed it necessary. However **I'm pleased that the Legislature was able to at least do something to address this disturbing pattern** which has emerged at the Special Commitment Center.

As you know, a total of **sixteen residents of the SCC are facing federal indictments for crimes related to possession of child pornography**. Because a nine-month backlog of confiscated computers is still awaiting inspection, I expect that number to double.

Supporting the Attorney General

After the federal government announced it had passed a sweeping health care reform law, Washington State's Attorney General, Rob McKenna, along with 13 other state attorneys general, filed a lawsuit against the government over the unconstitutionality of some of the law's provisions. **Specifically, the federal health care reform bill requires all citizens to purchase health insurance, and threatens punishment of fines if we do not comply.**

However, despite the partisanship that I've seen from both the governor and the Senate majority leader, this lawsuit is not about health care at all. It's not that the attorney general doesn't want people to have access to affordable health insurance. It's really about whether the federal government has the constitutional authority to **mandate that a private citizen be required to do something** the government tells him or her to do.

It's not like being required to purchase a driver's license, which is essentially a person obtaining permission to drive on taxpayer funded roads. That is an example of a privilege. Forcing people to purchase health insurance under the threat of monetary fine is not a privilege the federal government has. **It is an unprecedented and clear violation of the 10th Amendment of the United States Constitution, which basically says that any powers not specifically granted to the federal government remain with the people and the states.**

I believe that the federal health care reform bill, which is now law, is an incredible usurping of the Constitution and Rob McKenna is doing his job defending the people of the State of Washington. The impact this law will have on our state budget is also staggering, as the law dictates that the federal government back out after a number of years, leaving the states on the hook for 100% of the cost.

Dozens of solutions offered by the minority, ignored by the majority

Several people have asked why the Republicans are not providing any solutions to our current fiscal crisis. Well there are at least 55 solutions we've offered up over the last several years to avoid the current \$2.8 billion dollar budget deficit. **Unfortunately, the majority party has ignored us and our solutions.** This does not mean that we're not trying to fix things, but the reality is that the majority party controls the House, the Senate and the executive branch, and can choose to take up – or ignore – our ideas. Here is a list of those solutions:



Senate Republicans' Solutions for Government Reform & Budget Savings

1. Capture the **state auditors' proposed \$3.8 billion** in savings!
2. **K-12 financing reform** (SB 6858)
3. A new approach to **higher education** that maintains quality, access and affordability (SB 6625)
4. Reopen **collective bargaining agreements** (through a governor's declaration)
5. Jump-start job growth by providing a **B&O tax exemption** for new employers (SB 6645; SB 6057)
6. Finally start using **competitive contracting** to ensure state services are provided in the most cost-effective way possible (SB 5409)
7. Hold a **special session** in December 2009 during Committee Assembly; address our budget crisis early to capture the most possible savings

8. Adopt the state actuary's recommendations on **pension funding** (SB 5304)
9. **Higher education** access (SB 6156)
10. **Basic Health Plan** eligibility reform (SB 6154)
11. **Developmentally disabled youth** or movie tax credit? (SB 6153)
12. **General Assistance-Unemployable** reform (SB 6155)
13. **Bilingual education** reform (utilize RCW 28A.180.080)
14. **Pension** policy – defined contribution model (SB 6045)
15. **Pension** policy – preserve full funding status (SB 6046)
16. Put **extraordinary revenue growth** into rainy day fund (SJR 8209)
36. **Twenty ideas** that will save \$810 million (*amendment to ESHB 1624, "mini-supplemental"*), including:
 - Stopping the transfer of **tobacco settlement** funds to the Life Sciences Discovery Fund
 - Terminating state **anti-smoking** expenditures
 - Implementing more stringent **welfare reform** sanctions
 - Rolling back recent **vendor rate increases**
 - Deporting **undocumented offenders**
 - More frequent verification of **children's health care** eligibility
 - Freezing enrollment in the **Basic Health Plan**
 - Maintaining eligibility for **children's health coverage** at 250% of federal poverty level
 - Stopping the state subsidy of career **higher education students**
37. **Discretionary maintenance** items (*savings of \$525 million*)
38. **Learning improvement** days (*\$123 million*)
39. Eliminate state funding of **all-day kindergarten** (*\$84 million*)
40. Eliminate **health coverage** for children of undocumented immigrants (*\$61 million*)
41. Streamline **sales tax mitigation** payments (*\$65 million*)
42. Examine **free & reduced-price lunch** fraud (*Tens of millions, possibly higher*)
43. **Liquor sales** profit sharing (*\$52 million*)
44. **Corrections** reform (*\$25 million to \$50 million*)
45. **Tort** reform (*\$40 million*)
46. **Higher education**; non-instruction reduction, plus offset state support with tuition increase (*\$150 million*)
47. **Initiative 728**; limit spending to class size reduction efforts (*\$364 million*)

- 48. Freeze **legislative and judicial budgets** (\$23 million)
- 49. **CTED** assorted activities (\$37 million)
- 50. **Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction** – central programs (\$48 million)
- 51. **Economic services** changes (\$20 million)
- 52. Implement a state **hiring freeze!**
- 53. Examine growth in the **governor's office** – it's nearly doubled in four years!
- 54. A new approach to **property tax relief** (SJR 8226)
- 55. Senate Republicans – first to propose the **Rainy Day Fund!** (SJR 8200)

While people may not agree with every one of these solutions, the fact is that Republicans have not simply stood aside, criticizing the majority while not contributing anything positive.

In closing...

You can always find information online by visiting my website at www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.

As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by my Olympia office. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**



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Sincerely,

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